



Wollemi Pine

Wollemia nobilis

fact sheet

Wollemia

Not only is *Wollemia* one of the three genera that make up the Araucariaceae family, it only has one species in the genus – *Wollemia nobilis*. This is a very ancient tree. It was not found and identified until 1994. It appears in the fossil records dating back to 200 million years ago – the age of the dinosaurs. For several years, studies were carried out about the tree and potential for cultivation. The Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney had one on display in a “gilded” cage, prior to the limited release in 2006. As with other members of this family, the Wollemi pine is an evergreen conifer.

Wollemi pine

In the wild, the trees grow to 40m with trunks up to a metre in diameter. The leaves are of two types or phases. Juvenile leaves are bright lime-green, broad at their base and are erect in their growth. Adult leaves are tougher, a deeper bluish-green and pendulous in habit. The cones appear at the tips of branches with adult phase leaves. The bark is quite unusual, it looks like “bubbling chocolate” and is different from the bark from other related species.

In the Parklands

There are six Wollemi pines in the Parklands as part of the Native Pine Grove, located in the area bordered by Jervis Ave, Lang Rd and the open sandstone drain.

Features

The trees in Centennial Park are relatively young, and features such as ‘bubbled’ bark are not present. The bright green new foliage is outstanding. At the top of the canopy the branches are erect. Lower down the branches are long and drooping. This gives an idea of things to come as the tree matures.

